

Strengthening Law Enforcement and Community Relations  
Grant Overview and Meeting Summary  
November 9 and 10, 2015

**Introduction**

The Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) is administering a new grant program and would like to inform all interested parties of its progress and proposed action. This document describes the grant program and the approach underway to formulate a Request for Proposal. The BSCC is interested in understanding community priorities and ideas for this grant program and would like to invite public comment. This document concludes with instructions on how to provide public comment.

**Strengthening Law Enforcement and Community Relations Grant**

Strengthening Law Enforcement and Community Relations (Strengthening Grant) is the name of the new grant the BSCC is administering.

**Funding for the Grant**

The Budget Act of 2015 allocates \$6,000,000 to the BSCC to administer a new grant program. The Budget Act provides, in pertinent part:

The Board of State and Community Corrections shall provide grants to local law enforcement for programs and initiatives intended to strengthen the relationship between law enforcement and the communities they serve, including, but not limited to, providing training for front-line peace officers on issues such as implicit bias; funding for research to examine how local policing services currently are being delivered; assessing the state of law enforcement-community relations; comparing the status quo with the best practices in the policing profession; and receiving recommendations for moving forward, including the identification of policing models and operational options to improve policing; problem-oriented policing initiatives such as Operation Ceasefire; restorative justice programs that address the needs of victims, offenders, and the community; behavioral health training and any one-time costs associated with implementing, expanding, and maintaining a program designed to capture peace officer interactions with individuals in the community.

**Grant Allocation**

The Strengthening Grant is a one-year funded program (Fiscal Year 15/16). The BSCC will retain 5 percent of the Fiscal Year 15/16 allocation to administer the grant program. Approximately \$5,700,000 will be available for grants to local law enforcement agencies through a competitive process.

**Grant Administration**

The BSCC uses an Executive Steering Committee (ESC) process to administer grant funds. ESCs are composed of subject matter experts and stakeholders representing both the public and private sectors. ESCs are convened and approved by the BSCC Board as the need arises to carry out specified tasks, including the development of Requests for Proposal to seek applications for grant funds. Click this hyperlink to view the list of ESC members ([http://www.bscc.ca.gov/s\\_bsccactiveescs.php](http://www.bscc.ca.gov/s_bsccactiveescs.php)) submit findings and grant award recommendations to the BSCC Board for final approval.

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### **Request for Proposal**

A Request for Proposal (RFP) is a document the BSCC uses to announce the availability of funds. The RFP outlines pertinent criteria, defines eligibility and solicits applications.

### **Executive Steering Committee (ESC)**

On November 9-10, 2015, the Strengthening Grant ESC convened its initial meetings to begin developing an RFP. The ESC anticipates having an additional meeting in December to conclude discussions on what the RFP should include.

ESC members discussed a range of topics including eligibility, grant cycle and program development. The ESC has tentatively agreed on the following approaches:

#### ***Eligibility***

- Eligible applicants for the grant will be limited to municipal police departments, sheriff's departments, and cities that contract for law enforcement services.
- Applicants must certify that they are in compliance with Penal Code Section 11108, which is a requirement to report certain stolen, lost and found property.
- Police and sheriff's departments must partner with one or more local community-based organizations in order to submit an application (additional clarity on local partnerships will be included in the RFP).
- The law enforcement applicant must include a budget for its community partner(s).
- Partnerships must be formalized (e.g. via a Memorandum of Understanding or Letter of Agreement).
- Multiple agencies within the same county (i.e. more than one police department in the same county) may submit an application.

#### ***Joint Applications***

- Joint proposals (e.g. two or more police departments submitting an application) are permissible.
- An applicant may not submit both an individual and a joint application.

#### ***Grant Cycle***

- The grant activities will cover a two year period.
- Program and budget narratives must reflect a two year approach.

#### ***Funding Thresholds***

- Individual applications may request up to \$600,000.
- Joint applications may request up to \$850,000.
- Applicants are not required to request the maximum amount of funding available and may request less.

#### ***Matching Funds***

- All applications (individual and joint) must include a 20 percent funding match.

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- Match can be met through hard (cash) or soft (in-kind) matching funds, or a combination of both.

**Eligible Projects**

- The *President's Task Force On 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing Report* will serve as the foundation for the RFP.
  - The report can be found at:  
[http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/taskforce/TaskForce\\_FinalReport.pdf](http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/taskforce/TaskForce_FinalReport.pdf)
  - “The President charged the task force with identifying best practices and offering recommendations on how policing practices can promote effective crime reduction while building public trust.”
  - The report outlines six main topic areas or pillars:
    1. Building Trust and Legitimacy
    2. Policy and Oversight
    3. Technology and Social Media
    4. Community Policing and Crime Reduction
    5. Officer Training and Education
    6. Officer Safety and Wellness
  - Proposals must address at least one of these six pillars.

The ESC anticipates that the above approaches will be captured in the final RFP. The ESC will be able to modify, remove and/or add approaches until the BSCC Board approves the final version. The BSCC Board will consider RFP approval at its February 4, 2016 meeting.

The ESC is interested in receiving input from the public about the tentative plan as well as ideas and priority areas for strengthening local law enforcement and community relationships. The ESC has asked to be presented with all public comment provided through the BSCC website at its December 2016 meeting so that it can be considered as the RFP is finalized for presentation to the BSCC Board. Your public comments would be very appreciated!

**Public Comment**

To provide public comment to the Strengthening Grant ESC please submit an email at [StrengtheningGrant@bscc.ca.gov](mailto:StrengtheningGrant@bscc.ca.gov). Public input will be taken from Friday, November 20, 2015 through Monday, December 14, 2015.

The BSCC will host a Bidder's Conference in the spring (date and location to be determined) to answer questions and provide clarification on the RFP to potential applicants and community partners.